

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RIVERBANK NAVAL
PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS
JAMES RAY LAYTON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor fallen Riverbank Naval Petty Officer Third Class James Ray Layton.

HM3 James Ray Layton was born in Livermore, California on January 29, 1987 and died September 8, 2009 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan serving during Operation Enduring Freedom. Artist, healer and music lover James Ray Layton brought joy and love into the lives of his family, friends and Comrades in Arms.

At the time of his death Layton was assigned to Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan, which is responsible for training and equipping Afghan security forces. Lt. Cmdr. John Daniels, a Navy spokesman at the Pentagon, said Layton deployed to Afghanistan with an element of the Okinawa-based 3rd Marine Division. Layton enlisted Dec. 20, 2007.

Layton's death was described by McClatchy Newspapers correspondent Jonathan Landay, who was embedded with a group of Marines and pinned down by heavy fire in a rugged section of Kunar Province on Tuesday. "The Marines were cut down as they sought cover in a trench at the base of the village's first layer cake-style stone house. Much of their ammunition was gone. One Marine (later determined to be Layton) was bending over a second, tending his wounds, when both were killed, said Marine Cpl. Dakota Meyer, 21, of Greensburg, Ky., who retrieved their bodies."

Layton is the 28th soldier or Marine from the Northern San Joaquin Valley and foothills killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the first from Riverbank.

He is survived by his father Brent Layton, mother Nikki Freitas, step-father Gilbert Freitas, brothers Jonathon, Jesse, Brandon and Sage, and sister Jordan, grandmothers Kathy Anderson and Shirley Hughes, grandfather Winn Layton, stepsister Andrea Freitas, stepbrother Jason Freitas, and loving aunts, uncles and cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his Papa, Ray Hughes.

HONORING MR. RONNY VANDYKE
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the career of Mr. Ronny VanDyke on the occasion of his retirement, on September 1, 2011, and to thank

him for his more than thirty-three years of distinguished service and dedication to the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. VanDyke has played an integral role in the Information Technology journey of the House. He began in 1978 as a COBOL programmer supporting mainframe applications, transitioned readily into online application development using CICS, and then integrated mainframe and workstation technologies for the Information Services and Integrated Systems (ISIS) project. Finally, Mr. VanDyke worked on the design, development and support of the CAO's Web-based services.

Mr. VanDyke developed the first electronic mail system on the House mainframe and played a key role in the design and development of the mainframe-based Member Information Network (MIN). MIN provided congressional offices with online information services including newswires, LEGIS and GRANTS, as well as Member services such as scheduling, casework and tracking. Mr. VanDyke excels at developing standardized processes that are then readily adapted for multiple uses in support of House office business.

Mr. VanDyke played a key role in the design and development of the first release of the www.house.gov web site and the Write Your Representative Service, providing Members their first opportunity for a customized Web presence and e-communications.

Many of the core services Mr. VanDyke originally developed for the mainframe, he successfully made available on the Internet. These services continue to provide Member offices ease of communication with their constituency including, but not limited to, Google Site Search, custom in-House content management and publishing services, zip code authentication, and Web form processes enabling both the development of dynamic surveys as well as the electronic submission of constituent requests to one's specific House Representative.

Mr. VanDyke's knowledge, experience, dedication and consistently outstanding performance of his daily tasks have been exemplary. His ability to adapt to emerging technologies and his skilled transition of core House services has provided House offices seamless support and earned the respect of his co-workers, peers and management. Mr. VanDyke has provided House offices with superior customer service, almost always from behind the scenes, by providing those on the front lines with the confidence to propose technical solutions knowing that he will make it work.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Mr. Ronny VanDyke for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the House.

We wish him many wonderful years to fulfill his retirement dreams.

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RE-
LATING TO DEBT LIMIT IN-
CREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, nearly two-thirds of Americans say that job creation should be Washington's top priority. But no one here needs an opinion poll to learn that. I am sure all my colleagues are hearing what I hear by mail, fax, e-mail, Twitter, phone calls, Facebook, and passersby on the street. Everyone is saying, "Congress, get on with it! Make jobs! Get America to work! Get my husband, my cousin, my daughter to work." And, yet again, the Republican majority in the House is playing political games—wasting time debating a senseless resolution when we could, and should, be doing the work that the American people sent us here to do: creating jobs and revitalizing our economy. I recently visited several manufacturers in Central New Jersey to hear directly from job creators about what the federal government can do to promote growth. The political circus surrounding the debt ceiling negotiations was not mentioned once. With 25 million Americans either unemployed or underemployed, it's time to stop the political shenanigans and focus on the task at hand: putting America back to work. The debt ceiling debate this summer already wasted months that could have otherwise been spent focusing on job creation. In the end, the government made the responsible choice to pay its bills—case closed. Instead of further exacerbating the partisan divide on Capitol Hill, we should be coming together to fashion an effective, bipartisan jobs bill that the American people expect and deserve. How much time must we waste before we get serious about putting America back to work?

EDISON INTERNATIONAL

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Edison International on its 125th year of business.

Edison was founded on July 4, 1886 in Visalia, California and from then on, Edison has worked to find new and more efficient ways to serve its customers safely and reliably. For example, in 1898, Orville Ensign, an Edison engineer, designed the first insulator made from porcelain instead of glass which enabled the company to increase voltage on transmission lines. In the early 1900s, Edison engineer James Lighthipe designed the longest and highest voltage transmission line. It was also the first to be supported entirely by steel towers.

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